

Crossed Sabers

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"Telling the First Team's Story"

Friday, Dec. 2, 2005

Cav Welcomes New Commanding General

By Spc. Nicole Kojetin
1CD Public Affairs

Nearly 3000 1st Cavalry Division troops stood unwavering in the warm sunshine on division's parade ground Nov. 22 to bid farewell to their commanding general while welcoming a new one.

Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli passed on the unit's colors to First Team's new commanding general, Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, Jr. shortly before being promoted to lieutenant general. Chiarelli also received the Distinguished Service Medal for his time in command of the First Team from Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, the III Corps commanding general.

On a day that could have been filled with sadness, Chiarelli lightened the mood of the audience, poking fun at his horsemanship. Unlike his predecessors, Maj. Gen. Joseph Peterson and Lt. Gen. David McKiernan, Chiarelli chose to forego riding in the final cavalry charge, he said, so he could enjoy it with everyone else - in the stands.

The highlight of Chiarelli's tenure was riding off to war with his division. A year-long deployment to Baghdad beginning in early 2004 indelibly stamped Chiarelli's 28 months in command and filled another chapter in the annals of the First Team's storied history.

After thanking his family, friends and



(Photo by Spc. Colby Hauser, 1CD Public Affairs)

Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, the III Corps commanding general, hands Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, Jr., commanding general, 1st Cavalry Division, the division guide-on at Cooper Field during a change of command ceremony Nov. 22.

colleagues, Chiarelli shared his pride in the division and reinforced how much he will miss its rich traditions.

"Wearing this First Team patch changes us all, to some extent," Chiarelli said. "It makes us walk a little prouder and talk a little louder, because of the pride we feel for our unit. Wearing the largest patch in the Army's inventory also brings with it

a responsibility - to be the best, and it is a proud reminder to me to be able to continue to wear this patch on my right shoulder and in my heart, long after I hang up the uniform."

The incoming commanding general,

See General Page 3

First Team Continues Preparations for Deployment

By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
1CD Public Affairs

Following a Department of Defense announcement last week of units slated to participate in the next rotation to Iraq, senior leaders of the 1st Cavalry Division stressed that the announcement does not mean that the First Team will remain at home station next year.

"It is possible that addi-

tional forces from the reserve and active component will be alerted and mobilized, based on the operational needs on the ground in Iraq," said Brig. Gen. John Campbell, the assistant division commander - maneuver for the First Team in a statement released by the division Nov. 11.

Media reports noted DoD's exclusion of the division from the Iraq rotation schedule, slated

to begin next summer, bringing questions to the minds of military community members.

In regards to the announcement, Campbell said the division's approach and its training program over the coming months remain unchanged.

"The division will continue with its transformation," Campbell said. "We'll follow on with unit readiness assessment exercises and deployment

preparation."

He stressed that the division will be ready to deploy on short notice, if and when the call comes.

"Rotation planning is flexible," Campbell said. "Operational security and security transition conditions in theater, and not timelines, determine which units and the personnel strength of the force required to get the job done."

Man on the Street

What is your favorite holiday tradition?

Photos by Spc. Nicole Kojetin
1CD Public Affairs



Chief Warrant Officer II Kris Nicholson
Company A 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment

"My favorite tradition is cooking a turkey dinner for Christmas with my family."

"Going home and eating dinner will all my family -- just being with my family."



Spc. Davyn Vanencia
Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion



Spc. Brian Huckaby
Headquarters Company, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade.

"The family dinner of both Thanksgiving and Christmas, because you don't see most of the relatives for most of the year and it is great to get together."

Holiday Cheer from New Boss

As the end of another year draws closer, we are filled with gratitude for the blessings of a fruitful land.

For more than 84 years, First Team troopers have celebrated the year-end holidays with thankfulness and goodwill.

It is my great privilege and honor to serve with you during these historic and challenging times.

Your dedicated service on behalf of our nation stands as a testament to your character.

You voluntarily put your lives at risk and make numerous personal sacrifices so that all of our fellow citizens can enjoy the blessings and the benefits of liberty.

Your performance during this past year afforded opportunities to literally millions of people who could only dream of them before.

You redeployed, experienced an immense change in structure and leadership, and are continuing to successfully overcome all the obstacles associated with transformation.

I salute your war fighter spirit and your dedicated efforts to accomplish these many milestones in just a single year.

We should also bear in mind that this is not the typical holiday for many Soldiers who are deployed across freedom's frontier, on point, guarding liberty on our behalf.

Many of you and your families know first-hand what that sacrifice means and

feels like.

Our mission often times takes us away from our loved ones for extended periods of time.

Deployments, field training exercises, qualification ranges, inspections and trips to national training centers all shorten our time with our families.

During this holiday season, we should all take the time to

reflect on and reaffirm the importance of the freedoms we have come to know and love, and enjoy them with the ones we hold dear.

As we move into the New Year we must continue to set and enforce the high standards that made this division so successful in the past.

The entire division will continue to lean forward into this process we refer to as transformation, meeting it head on to get us ready for the next mission.

Leadership will continue to be the key element in our successes.

Good leaders recognize that what we do today affects our ability to conduct operations in the future, and they pass that emphasis down the chain of command, to each individual trooper.

Remember that Soldiers are our most precious resource.

Be safe wherever you travel this holiday season, and return energized as we continue to "Live the Legend" in 2006.

Wendy and I wish you all joyous season's greetings and a happy New Year. First Team!



Pegasus 6
Sends:

Maj. Gen.
Joseph Fil,
Jr.

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Thanks First Team**Troops Rewarded for Assisting Army's SRAP**

By Spc. Colby Hauser
1CD Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Thomas Bostick, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, along with Lt. Col. Bob Bond, the commander of the Army's Recruiting Battalion in Dallas made a visit to the First Team's Cooper Field at Fort Hood Nov. 7 to recognize troops who participated in the Special Recruiter Assistance Program and helped the Army accomplish its recruiting goals the last four months.

"The 1st Cavalry Division and other elements of our Army who participated in this Special Recruiter Assistance Program, as well as other initiatives, have paid off," Bostick said. "Recruiting and retention is not just an Army problem, but America's problem."

Bostick presented nearly 40 First Team troops with awards ranging from coins and certificates of appreciation to custom "Louisville Slugger" baseball bats and Army Achievement Medals for their work in SRAP. He said that more than 60 First



(Photo by Spc. Colby Hauser, 1CD Public Affairs)

Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli (left), commanding general, 1st Cavalry Division, Maj. Gen. Thomas Bostick, commanding general, U.S. Army Recruiting Command and Sgt. Maj. Merle Henry, the 1st Cavalry Division's command career counselor, present awards to Cav troops on Cooper Field Nov. 7 for their performance during the Special Recruiter Assistance Program.

Team Soldiers participated in the program in the Dallas region, encompassing most of central Texas, and through their efforts 22 young men and women have enlisted in the Army.

"You all have really hit a homerun for us," Bond said, noting the presentation of the autographed baseball bats. "The Soldiers from the division were really top-notch and very pro-

fessional in carrying out their duties during SRAP."

The program offered Soldiers who served in Iraq the opportunity to share their experiences with local communities and potential recruits. Bond said the troops performed various recruiting missions from giving public speeches to visiting college campuses to share their experi-

ences and answer questions.

"Lots of people have questions about the Army, especially parents," he said. "That's where the SRAP Soldiers came in and could give honest answers about what it's really like being deployed."

Bostick, together with Chiarelli, presented the awards on the division's parade field.

"The bottom line ...the 1st Cavalry Division has supplied over 50 percent of the SRAP participants," said Sgt. Maj. Merle Henry, the 1st Cavalry Division's command career counselor. "I believe our troopers who went out there on SRAP were instrumental in Recruiting Command making their mission in September and beyond."

Henry said, as of Sept. 20, more than 1000 Cav Soldiers have volunteered and more than 700 troops have served or are currently serving in the program.

The Cav continued to provide support to the program while the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and elements of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade were deployed to Louisiana to support relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina.



(Photo by Spc. Colby Hauser, 1CD Public Affairs)

Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, III Corps commanding general, and Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, Jr., the incoming commanding general, 1st Cavalry Division, perform a inspection of the troops during the change of command ceremony Nov. 22.

General

From Page 1

however, is not a stranger to the division. He served as the commander of 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment from 1992 to 1994 and also the 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade from 1997 to 1999.

"It is wonderful to be back with the First Team," Fil said. "Wendy and I are thrilled to again be associated with this extraordinary division and all its traditions."

Fil is returning to Fort Hood from serving as the commanding general of the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition

Command in Iraq. Fil said his focus is on the future of the division, no matter where that road leads.

"Well, we know that we're committed, as a nation, in Iraq and Afghanistan," Fil explained. "Although we don't have any official orders yet, we're prepared to do either of those. We'll work really hard to make sure that when called, if called, we're ready."

Just eight months after returning from Iraq, Chiarelli leaves his central Texas post to return to Baghdad. With a third star on his collar, his focus for this tour broadens from the Iraqi capital to the entire country as the commanding of Multi-National Corps - Iraq.

Division Bids Farewell to Top NCO

By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
1CD Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas — More than 600 Soldiers, civilians, family members and friends of the 1st Cavalry Division crowded into the stands facing Cooper Field to officially say good-bye to Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola during a division-wide ceremony Monday morning. Ciotola leaves the division after being selected as the command sergeant major for III Corps and Fort Hood.

Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, the division's commanding general, served as the reviewing officer of the ceremony. During his remarks, he told the audience of Ciotola's many contributions during their 15 months together.

"We've shared many trials and tribulations in that time — from grieving our losses to the joyful return of so many First Team troops," Chiarelli said.

"We made a difference in Iraq," he continued. "We turned the governance of that country over to an interim parliamentary government, and saw the birth of democracy on Jan. 30 this year with Iraq's first free election after years under a dictatorship. Our successes in Iraq are the direct result of teamwork, and a command team focused on mission first, Soldiers always."

Calling him the finest non-commissioned officer he'd ever worked with, the general's words brought tears to Ciotola's eyes. When it was his turn to address those assembled, Ciotola's voice cracked several times as he choked up delivering his speech.

He said the First Team has always had a special place in his



(Photo by Spc. Colby Hauser, 1CD Public Affairs)

Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Sanders (left), the acting command sergeant major of the 1st Cavalry Division, Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli (center), division commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola (right), the III Corps command sergeant major, inspect the troops Nov. 7 at Cooper Field during Ciotola's farewell ceremony.

heart, and leaving, even for a higher-level assignment, is hard to do.

"It was in this division that I took my first steps as a non-commissioned officer," Ciotola remembered. "It was here that I met my wife."

Speaking of his early years in the division, Ciotola said he remembers the first time he ever saw his wife, Beth, cry ... on their wedding day.

"Babe, if I saw me at the end of that aisle, I'd be crying, too," he joked. But it was the second time Ciotola noted seeing his wife's tears that brought home the command sergeant major's anecdote.

"The second time was in 1981, when I was taking that big patch off my Class A uniform," he recalled. Leaving, this time for good, was an emotional day for the former First Team senior NCO.

During the ceremony,

Ciotola broke with tradition, foregoing the standard mounted inspection of the troops. Instead, the command sergeant major, Chiarelli and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Sanders, the division's acting command sergeant major, walked in front of their mounts and conducted the walk-through on foot. Ciotola stopped to shake hands and share hugs with the battalion command sergeants major leading each formation. He said he asked to change the traditional inspection in order to reach out and touch the leaders he's leaving behind.

"Leadership is an emotional business," Ciotola said afterward. "I gave up my last ride to be up close and personal (during the farewell ceremony)."

With his own nomination to lieutenant general and future assignment as the commanding general of Multi-National Corps — Iraq, Chiarelli, too, can begin

to reflect on his command team's legacy with the division. He said the legacy he's most proud of is leaving the division in such capable hands. He attributed the strong NCO corps in the division to Ciotola's hard work.

"Good leaders leave behind a legacy of young NCOs who are prepared to carry on in their footsteps," Chiarelli said during an interview after the ceremony. "That's their legacy. That's Neil Ciotola's legacy."

He said the division's loss is III Corps and Fort Hood's gain, making this farewell easier to bear. Ciotola said he looks forward to working with leaders at all the Fort Hood-based tenant units, but left a piece of advice for the First Team.

"To all, never hesitate to show the love of your Soldiers," he said. "Leadership is about emotion, and love is the strongest emotion of all."

Brigade Wins 'Stay Cav' Award

By Spc. Colby Hauser
1CD Public Affairs

Tables draped in white linen, adorned with statues of dragons, knights and horses welcomed representatives of the 1st Cavalry Division to the Fort Hood Officers Club Nov. 8 for the Commanding General's Retention Awards Breakfast for the 2005 fiscal year.

More than 200 officers and non-commissioned officers were on hand to recognize the best of the best and celebrate the accomplishments of those units who stood out in retaining Soldiers.

"Without America's best we are nothing," said Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commanding general, 1st Cavalry Division.



(Photo by Spc. Colby Hauser, 1CD Public Affairs)

Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commanding general, 1st Cavalry Division, addresses more than 200 officers and non-commissioned officers at the Commanding General's Retention Awards Breakfast Nov. 8 at the Fort Hood Officers Club.

"With leaders like these First among us." Team troops honored today the future of this Division and the Army remains in good hands as we continue to retain the best

swept the awards ceremony at the brigade and battalion levels. The "Stay Cav Award," given to the brigade with the highest annual retention rate, was presented to the Ironhorse command group. The 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, also from 1st BCT, won for the best battalion.

Chiarelli said this was an accomplishment in itself, noting that 1st BCT conducted the most sustained combat operations of all the brigades during their deployment in Iraq.

"It was the leadership at not just the brigade level, but with the company commanders and first sergeants that made

See Awards Page 6

Iraqi Americans Train Ironhorse Troops

By Spc. Sheena Reyes
1BCT, 1CD Public Affairs

The war in Iraq is a very important topic in today's military. A Soldier's familiarization with the country of Iraq has also become a vital subject that will contribute to the success of future missions there.

Five Iraqi Americans are hosting a series of cultural awareness classes for 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Brigade Combat Team's Ironhorses. The classes highlight the country's customs, language and history in an effort to give Soldiers a broader perspective of Iraq and its people.

"To understand the culture of Iraq is an essential element for this war because when Soldiers can show that they have put an effort into learning about Iraq, the locals will see their compassion and eventually help them," said Ahmed Al-Absi, one of the cultural awareness advisors.

Classes cover a wide-range of topics including the geography of Iraq and the ethnic and religious distribution of the Iraqi people. Cultural differences of each ethnic and religious group are covered in



(Illustration by Spc. Sheena Reyes, 1BCT 1CD Public Affairs)

order to give Soldiers a feel for specific customs and which religious group practices them.

The history of Iraq is explored, giving Soldiers a chronological road map of where Iraq has been and the process of how its present state came about.

Basic Arabic phrases are also introduced, helping Soldiers familiarize the selves with the language.

Each block of instruction recaps the

day's class with a test. Five different blocks of cultural awareness instruction will run through next March.

"I think this is very important training just based off my own experience in Iraq," said Capt. Leo Wyszynski, commander of the brigade's headquarters troop. "We did have some training before we deployed (the last time), but it really didn't sink in until we actually got there. We learned that the best intelligence that we got were from the Iraqi people who we would meet on a daily basis. We would interact with them in a respectful way and we found out that you really can't underestimate the value of respecting someone's culture and beliefs."

Several of the instructors have done tours in Iraq with the military.

They have also served as translators and role players in military training exercises.

"I am doing this from the bottom of my heart," Al-Absi said. "Iraq is my country and so is America. I've lived here since I was 17 and I have lots of family here. To be honest, I'm doing this as a patriot of America. It's my pleasure."

Celebrating Native American Heritage

By **Spc. Sheena Reyes**
1BCT, 1CD Public Affairs

The 1st Cavalry Division's "Ironhorse" Brigade had their own pow-wow Nov. 2 at the Fort Hood Officer's Club in celebration of Native American

Heritage Month.

The hour-long program included traditional Native American dances and singing by the Robert Bass Dancers, a presentation of appreciation commemorating Native American service members

who've received the Medal of Honor and a slide presentation commemorating Pfc. Lori Piestewa, the first Native American to die in combat in the war on terror.

"It's important for Soldiers to learn about different cultures

and ethnicities, because that is what the Army consists of," said Sgt. 1st Class Teresa Salmon, the equal opportunity advisor with 1st BCT. "(This celebration is) helping Soldiers learn and appreciate each other. It's also fun for the Soldiers and for the Native Americans who are in the military. It lets them know that their culture means something and that they're appreciated."

More than 100 troops listened as the guest speaker at the event, Tallbear Montez, the president of the Board of Trustees for Tribal American Network, encouraged Soldiers to look at one another and at the world itself as a family.

The importance of cultural events like these was obvious to the Soldiers in attendance of the show.

"The celebration was great," said Sgt. Roberto Solorzano, a topographic specialist with the brigade. "I really like the dancing, but the event itself really shows us how we are all the same because we wear the uniform. But our cultures are what makes us individuals."

Several booths and photos were also displayed exhibiting Native American functions and cultural activities.



(Photo by Spc. Sheena Reyes 1BCT, 1CD Public Affairs)

Cody Blassingane, a Robert Bass dancer, performs the Native American "Northern Traditional" dance at the 1st Cavalry Division's Native American Heritage Celebration Nov. 2 at the Fort Hood Officer's Club.

Awards

From Page 5

this successful," said Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley Small, the brigade's top non-commissioned officer after accepting the award.

Small said that the incentives offered during deployment by both the Army and the division proved to be very helpful in retaining Soldiers. "The devil that you know is better than the devil that you don't know," he said. "Staying Cav was an

option many troops took advantage of."

Awards were also presented to three First Team Soldiers for outstanding individual accomplishments. Staff Sgt. Carlos Sepulveda from the 2nd "Blackjack" Brigade Combat Team and Staff Sgt. Carina Robinson from Ironhorse received certificates of appreciation for becoming honor graduates from the two most recent basic career counselor courses.

The final award went to Blackjack's Staff Sgt. Rex Fortner, who was presented a plaque and an Army Achievement Medal for winning the division's Career

Counselor of the Year honor.

After the ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, the III Corps command sergeant major, took a moment to address the Cav's career counselors and asked them to pass on their knowledge.

"I am worried about those Soldiers out there, who at no fault of their own, just don't know what is available to them, said Ciotola.

"So please, share you knowledge," he urged. "You are the subject matter experts. Pass on what you know and take care of those Soldiers."

Troops Showcase Vehicles at Air Fiesta

By Spc. Robert Yde
2BCT, 1CD Public Affairs

WACO, Texas – The weather was not ideal, but windy conditions and the chance of rain did not keep an estimated 20,000 people from attending the Texas Air Fiesta, Nov. 12 at the Texas State Technical College Airport.

The free event showcased military exhibits and an air show in honor of Veterans Day.

Although the air show had top billing for the day, it was only one of several featured activities, including static displays set up and manned by troops from the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team.

Soldiers from Alpha and Charlie Companies of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, as well as Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, answered questions and showed off their vehicles. Those in attendance were able to get hands-on experience with an Abrams Battle Tank, Howitzer and a Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

"This lets them sit in the drivers hatch and sit in the turret," said Sgt. Khori Grant, a Bradley gunner with Co. A, 1-5 Cavalry.

Not only did people enjoy the opportunity to crawl around and into the tanks, but they were full of questions about the machines.

"Everyone asks, 'Did this one go to Iraq?'" said Sgt. Derrick Martin, a section chief for 3-82, referring to the Howitzer.

"They also want to know how far it will shoot and how fast it will go," added Spc. Alejandro Martinez, a canon



(Photo by Spc. Robert Yde, 2BCT, 1CD Public Affairs)

Pvt. Willie Moore, a loader with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, assists a future Soldier down from the top of an M1A2 Abrams Battle Tank at the Texas Air Fiesta, Nov. 12 in Waco, Texas.

crewmember with 3-82.

While the displays were popular with attendees all ages, children seemed to particularly relish the chance to see these vehicles up close.

"This has been their favorite part of the day," Liz Kramolis of Robinson, Tex., said of her two children. "They really enjoy crawling around on the tanks."

With all of these people climbing onto and around the tanks, safety had to be paramount.

"We are briefing them and letting them know that there are

a lot of things to trip on," said Staff Sgt. Stephen Cyr, an Abrams tank commander and the non-commissioned officer in charge of the displays. "With children, we are asking them to always maintain three points of contact."

Besides spending time with kids, Black Jack Soldiers had a chance to interact with many veterans in attendance.

"It's great talking to the veterans," Martinez said. "They are so full of nice anecdotes and stories."

Not only were the veterans able to share their stories, but

they also had the chance to see how technology has changed since their time in service.

"Some of the older veterans were surprised that we have (global positioning system)-guided rounds," Martinez said.

Along with the representatives from the Black Jack Brigade, elements from the First Team's 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, the Texas National Guard and the Air Force were also on hand with their own respective displays.

The air show began around noon as a T6-A Texan 2 left the runway, immediately going vertical and into a roll.

The small aircraft seemed to float on the wind, and over the next couple of hours, spectators watched as pilots performed an array of aerial aerobics and flew in tight formations that left no room for error.

A sky diving team from the Rio Grande Valley performed a flag jump and radio-controlled aircraft battled each other to the delight of the large crowd, but the highlight of the day was the recreation of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The demonstration was put on by the Commemorative Air Force, a group that collects and restores World War II aircraft.

The stage was set as 1940's era big band music played over the speakers, while an announcer offered a brief narration of life during this historic period.

Suddenly a formation of planes could be seen in the distance, and within a minute the attack had begun.

As the vintage Japanese aircraft made continuous dives over the airstrip, simulated

Soldiers Turkey Trot With Their "Buddy"

By Spc. Robert Yde
2BCT, 1CD Public Affairs

"Buddy," a turkey donated by a local farmer, was dubbed "the luckiest turkey in Killeen," as he was given his pardon by Col. Bryan Roberts, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team prior to their quarterly brigade run.

While the turkey was obviously symbolic of Thanksgiving, the name chosen for the bird, as well as his pardoning also had an underlying meaning, Roberts told his troops.

"I want our Soldiers to remember their battle buddies that are deployed and be thankful for what they are doing so we can be at home in a safe environment," Roberts said.

The colonel also reminded his Soldiers that they have buddies all around them to act as a support system, and that buddies should help and protect one another every day.

"Buddy's life was saved today, and it's our job to save our buddies and protect the nation when duty calls," Roberts explained.

The morning was cold, with the temperatures somewhere in the mid-thirties as company after company made their way to the south lawn of the division's headquarters in preparation for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's quarterly brigade run.

While his Soldiers reflected on Roberts' message, he brought them to attention, and lined them up for the run.

As the Black Jack Soldiers began their warm up stretches, "Eye of the Tiger" played over a sound system put in place for

the event.

"We have a whole lot of highly motivated Soldiers ready to do the run," said Sgt. Shawn Myers, a section leader with 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment.

As the sound of cadence callers mingled together, one company after another set out towards Battalion Avenue, accompanied by the newest member of the Black Jack family.

While resting comfortably in his cage, Buddy was carried by stretcher and passed from battalion to battalion during the run.

The 4-mile run came to an end in front

of Black Jack's brigade headquarters, where Roberts and his command staff saluted their Soldiers as they passed by.

For the Soldiers, it was a rare chance for the entire Black Jack family to come together as one.

And as for Buddy, he will remain at Black Jack headquarters throughout the Thanksgiving holidays.

Later, he'll be sent to a local farm where he can live out the rest of his life without worrying about being the center piece at someone's Thanksgiving feast. - at least this years.



(Photo by Spc. Robert Yde, 2BCT, 1CD Public Affairs)

The newest member of the Black Jack family, "Buddy," is carried back to his temporary home in front of 2nd Brigade Combat Team headquarters after the brigade run Nov. 17. Buddy was pardoned by Black Jack commander, Col Bryan Roberts, who dubbed him "the luckiest turkey in Killeen."



(Photo by Spc. Robert Yde, 2BCT, 1CD Public Affairs)

The T6-A Texas and the newer version the T6-A Texas 2 fly over the crowd at the Texas Air Fiesta, Nov. 12 in Waco, Texas.

Fiesta

From Page 7

explosions were set off, while the sound of machine gun fire and the wail of alert sirens were played over the loudspeaker.

The attack lasted for approximately 15 minutes and came to an end as the loudspeaker played a portion of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's speech declaring war

on Japan.

As the smoke cleared, the planes landed, moving along the taxiway so the thousands of spectators could get one last look at them.

By the cheers from the crowd it was apparent that the Texas Air Fiesta was a hit, and for those in attendance, it was a fitting way to spend a special weekend.

"This is a great way to spend Veteran's Day weekend," Grant said.

Troops Test New Chemical Gear

By Spc. Paula Taylor
4BCT, 1CD Public Affairs

DUGWAY PROVING GROUNDS, Utah —“Drive to the middle of nowhere and turn left,” the post brochure warned, and that was no exaggeration. We headed southwest of Salt Lake City, over the mountains, across the vast desert plains, past the herds of antelope and found ourselves at the front gate of Dugway Proving Grounds on Oct. 22. Our purpose was to participate in the Man in Simulant Test, or MIST.

We were being used for an experimental project to test the newly-designed, two-piece joint-service lightweight integrated suit technology, known as JSLIST, as well as a chemical suit, used in tanks.

After settling into our accommodations, we headed out to the test site to get fitted for uniforms and M-40 series protective masks.

There were four of us, from the Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from Fort Bliss, Texas. Also there were two Marines and 11 other Soldiers.

Before they could enter the chamber, the participants had their temperature and blood pressure taken, they were weighed and took a urine density test. The urine test would show whether they were hydrated enough to enter the chamber.

They swallowed a pill that had a transmitter built into it that would allow the testers to monitor their body's vitals throughout the testing procedure.

After showering with a special soap, used to strip the skin of any residue, they were taken into a room and pads were applied to 22 areas of their body.

These pads, Natick samplers, have the same characteristics of skin and are used to collect data that shows whether any or how much of the chemical penetrated the suit or mask during testing.

Finally, they donned their protective equipment and headed into the chamber in pairs.

Methyl-Salicylate was blown into the chamber, in vapor form, by aircraft propellers. MeS is wintergreen oil, which mimics nerve agent, said Charlie Walker, chemical testing director for DPG.

Once inside the chamber, which was set at 80 degrees Fahrenheit and 55-60 percent humidity, each participant rotated through the eight stations in a span of two hours.

These stations are designed to simulate nearly every type of movement that a service member would be performing in a chemical environment. Bending, reaching, sitting, walking, standing, stretching and climbing were included in the test. They each completed three cycles of rotation before being released from the chamber.

After they exited the chamber and their suit, servicemembers completed a survey form to give the testers feedback on how functional and comfortable the suit and process was.

The newly designed JSLIST has different sleeves and leg cuffs. The gear zips around the waist, which The other suit tested was coveralls, used for tankers. These suits would eliminate the need for a tanker to wear the combat vehicle crewman suit.

One of the advantages to the material is that once fuels or oils are spilled on the new suit, they repel off, unlike the current suit, where the charcoal absorbs



(Courtesy Photo)

Pvt. Sean Johnson, NBC specialist with 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, is shown wearing the newly-designed digital patterned version of the joint-service lightweight integrated suit technology.

the liquid and it stays with it. The knees, seat and elbows have reinforcement for harsh wear and the coveralls come equipped with an extraction harness in case the wearer needs to be pulled out of the tank to safety.

"These suits have been in the developmental stages for a year," said Zeb Atkinson, a

developmental engineer.

Over 500 service members have participated in uniform testing at Dugway within the past 10 years, Walker said. The purpose of the MIST is to develop new suits that are chemically and biologically protective and lighter weight for less heat stress.

"First Attack" Battalion Executes Certification

By Capt. Lee Robinson
1-227 Aviation Regiment

The 1st Cavalry Division's Longbow Apache Battalion and the Army's first Longbow equipped unit, the 1st Aviation Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, conducted critical training and certification exercises Nov. 2 through Nov. 4 at the Forward Arming and Refueling Point 2W training area on Fort Hood.

This three-day exercise culminated with the battalion's distribution platoon, from the Forward Support Company (FSC), getting certified in tactical and technical "hot" refuel and live ordnance upload and download procedures.

"The success or failure of the distribution platoon will make or break an attack or reconnaissance mission in support of the 1st Cavalry Division," said Lt. Col. Christopher Walach, 1-227th's commander. "One of the most lethal fighting organizations in the U.S. Army will not last long on the battlefield without a very flexible and redundant refuel and rearming platoon capability with leaders able to adapt to a changing environ-



(Photos by Pvt. Rodolfo Mendoza, 1-227th Aviation Regiment)

Soldiers from the distribution platoon of the 1st Aviation Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, conduct a simulated downed pilot aircraft extraction drill during certification on Fort Hood.

ment and deal with an enemy that has a vote with everything we do or do not do.

"As we have seen during Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II, the 1-227th ARB executed numerous close and deep successful operations and could

not have had the same success without the hard working and agile Soldiers and leaders that make our battalion mission successful," he added.

The company commander noted that platoon-level training, individual and collective

battle drills and certification allows the Soldiers to execute their go-to-war platoon mission.

"We are 100 percent better after having executed this critical training and certification," said Capt. Dereck Smith, the FSC commander.

The battalion commander and command sergeant major certified the platoon in convoy operations, establishing a forward operating base security zone, communication procedures, and live ammunition upload and downloading operations, as well as refueling operations.

On the final day of certification, Brig. Gen. William Troy, the assistant division commander for support, observed the platoon certification.



Two AH-64 Apache Longbows from the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st "First Attack" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, land for FARP certification.

Detachment Hosts Annual Retiree Day

By Spc. Colby Hauser
1CD Public Affairs

Mounted troopers with pistols drawn charged through a cloud of smoke to the delight of the audience at the 1st Cavalry Division's Horse Cavalry Detachment's arena as part of the 31st Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Oct. 29.

The members of the Horse Cavalry Detachment, one of two ceremonial units in the First Team, performed a variety of riding and weapons skills required of a cavalryman back when the Cav consisted of Soldiers on horseback.

"The whole show, from Buddy (the detachment's faithful dog) on down is my favorite part," said John Trolinger, a retired U.S. Army chief warrant officer from Killeen, Texas. "It's just amazing the things they do."

Trolinger said as part of the appreciation day, nearly 100 local military and Department of Defense retirees and their families were treated to a round of flu shots, a hot meal and the detachment's performance to say thank you for their service.

"A day like this, when we get to perform and interact with the public is my favorite," said Sgt. Charles Edwards, a light wheel vehicle mechanic serving with horse detachment.

"My kids absolutely loved it," said Spc. Michael Woods, an administrative assistant with Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division. "I didn't know they could do facing movements on horses."

From the opening charge the horse detachment displayed for the audience the various riding formations common to the old mounted cavalry.

Next, they performed various trooper skills, such as mounted pistol and rifle marksmanship and picking up a downed rider. They also severed several pumpkins during a saber drill.

"When they stabbed the pumpkin, that was cool," said Tyrus Woods, 8, from Killeen.

"The show was outstanding," said Staff Sgt. Dietra Woods, an administrative specialist with Headquarters Company, III Corps. "They make everything look so easy."

After the performance the audience was



(Photos by Spc. Colby Hauser, 1CD Public Affairs)

Audience members meet and greet with 1st Cavalry Division's Horse Cavalry Detachment members and their mounts at the detachment's arena following their performance as part of Fort Hood's 31st Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Oct. 29. Nearly 100 retirees and their family members attended the performance.

allowed to meet both the two-legged and four-legged members of the detachment.

Stable tours were also available for those wanting the full experience. Children giggled as they pawed the tired horses.

Still the question of the day was, "So, what does it take to get into this unit?"

"Everyone tries out for 30 days and afterwards the detachment decides if they want to keep you," Edwards said. He said that, regardless of rank, a prospective member starts out cleaning stalls, or "outside," then works their way into one of the shops.

"The shops have heaters in the winter and air conditioning in the summer, so you want to get into shop as soon as you can," he said.

Even the horses have to try out. Edwards said that once a new horse arrives at the unit they start its training.

"Sometimes we get a horse that does-



Mule skinner Sgt. Randy Melton (left), "swamper" Cpl. Dominick Anderson and "Buddy" (the dog), from the 1st Cavalry Division's Horse Cavalry Detachment perform at the detachment's arena as part of Fort Hood's 31st Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Oct. 29.

n't accept the training," he said. "However, we don't want to give up on any of the horses because we want them to succeed."



Maj. Matt Kaufman, a plans officer for the 1st Cavalry Division, practices his putting technique Nov. 9 at the Clear Creek Golf Course. Kaufman was one of more than 140 participants in the 1st Cavalry Division Golf Scramble held to help build esprit de corps within the division.



(Photos by Spc. Colby Hauser, 1CD Public Affairs)

Col. Daniel Shanahan, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, chips a shot onto the green at Deer Run #3 at the Clear Creek Golf Course Nov. 9 as his fellow teammates look on. (Left to right): Lt. Col. Michael Mahony, operations officer, 1st ACB; Capt. Patrick Petrino, assistant operations officer, 1st ACB; and Lt. Col. Chris Joslin, commander, 2nd Battalion, 227th Cavalry Regiment.

Fore On Four

Cav Holds Golf Scramble

By Spc. Colby Hauser
1CD Public Affairs

There was an air of anticipation the morning of Nov. 9, as members of the 1st Cavalry Division made their way into the club house at the Clear Creek golf course. With lumber in hand more than 140 fairway warriors gathered to conduct offensive operations on an unforgiving opponent, the Armadillo Hills and Deer Run courses.

Like trained military professionals, the troops moved with purpose to the rallying point and waited for the order to commence "Operation Golf Scramble." Thirty-six four-man teams would participate in what was a day of team building and healthy competition for the First Team Soldiers.

Maj. Kevin Kugel, the deputy chemical officer for the 1st Cavalry Division said the

purpose of the tournament was to simply promote unit camaraderie and esprit de corps within the division. He said with this in mind, some modifications were made to the rules governing the game.

"Whoever hits the best ball off the tee, the other team members will play from that position," he said.

Other rules included the eight-stroke rule, which means a maximum of eight strokes could be played per hole, the two-putt rule on the putting green and golf carts were to be kept on the cart paths only.

A popular option for the competitors was the one-time purchase of three mulligans. A mulligan, in layman terms, is the ability to re-do a shot on the course which could be used on any shot except for the prize hole. Prize holes consisted of a variety of amateur golfing feats from closest to the

pin on Armadillo Hills #2 to longest drive in the fairway on Deer Run #3.

On the driving range the competitors zeroed their weapons by firing white, dimpled projectiles down range. However, not all the rounds were on target.

"Whoops," exclaimed a troop from the firing line as a round meant for the 300-yard mark sliced into the woods.

Still, the First Team Soldiers carried on their preparations by putting, chipping, driving and occasionally throwing their balls down range until the moment arrived and the commander rallied the troops.

Rows of golf carts instead of Bradley Fighting Vehicles filled the staging area beside the Armadillo Hills #1 tee as Maj.

Black Jack Soldiers' Motto: "Hook 'em Horns!"

By Pfc. Alexis Harrison
2BCT, 1CD Public Affairs

AUSTIN, Texas – Getting a four-day-weekend to remember fallen comrades is one way the Army allowed Soldiers to observe Veteran's Day weekend. A few more fortunate Soldiers were given the opportunity to celebrate the holiday in an even more memorable way.

Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade celebrated the holiday weekend by watching the University of Texas Longhorns play host to the University of Kansas Jayhawks in their last home game of the season Nov. 12 at Texas Memorial Stadium.

"We started doing these four years ago to show appreciation to the Soldiers," said Ernest Banasau, a retired Army major, now a supply technician with the University of Texas. "It's unfortunate we couldn't bring more Soldiers, but for the ones who came, we just want to say 'Thank you,' and show our support."

And show it they did. The university's local Reserve Officer's Training Corps chapter held a barbecue to honor the Soldiers, Marines and veterans whom came to the event. Shortly thereafter, everyone

made their way to the stadium to watch the Longhorns prove they are national championship contenders.

After warm ups and some regulatory announcements, the National Anthem was sang. During the final notes four Air Force T-38 Talons flew over the stadium to the approving roar of the crowd.

"Normally I'd pass on opportunities like this," said 1st Sgt. Jonathan Aldrich from Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment. "As soon as I heard it was the 'Horns playing, I jumped on the opportunity."

Soldiers were selected to attend the event on a first-come, first-served basis.

"We went to represent the 1st Cavalry Division like the professionals we are," said Aldrich.

Soldiers from 1-8 Cavalry, the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1-5 Cavalry, the 15th Brigade Support Battalion, the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion and 4-9 Cavalry were all on hand for the game.

"I got to meet the president earlier this year in Louisiana," said Pfc. Daniel Pritchard, a tank operator out of Co. D, 1-8 Cav. "Now, I got to watch the Longhorns whip Kansas. What



(Photo by Pfc. Alexis Harrison, 2BCT, 1CD Public Affairs)

The game clock strikes 0:00 as Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade give the University of Texas Longhorn's a salute after the 'Horns trounce the University of Kansas Jayhawks 66-14 at Texas Memorial Stadium in Austin, Texas Nov. 12.

could be better?"

"It doesn't get any better than seeing the 'Horns play," Aldrich said. "I've been a die-hard 'Horns fan forever. When I

went to Iraq I had a huge Longhorns flag above my bed and a Longhorns blanket to sleep with. I'm honored to have been here and watch them play."

Golf

From Page 12

Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commanding general, 1st Cavalry Division, encouraged his troops to enjoy the day but try to keep creative score keeping to minimum. Then with a simple command, the Cav clubbers mounted their carts and assaulted greens.

For the troops, some were playing for fun, others were here to win.

"If they're keeping score, we want to win," said Col. Paul Funk, commander of

the 1st Brigade Combat Team.

Others were keeping score, but from a different point of view.

"I'm going to have the most points, so I'll win, right," said Maj. Matt Kaufman, a plans officer for the 1st Cavalry Division.

Morning turned into afternoon as the teams made their way through the course. The cheers and laughter from earlier in the day were slowly replaced by the occasional shout as the competitive spirit enveloped the teams.

At the crossroads of Armadillo Hills # 7 the competitive spirit carried across the

course.

After a long day in the trenches, the First Team troops made their way back to the clubhouse in search of cold beverages, cool air and clean restrooms.

The "Ironhorse" Brigade took a one-two sweep of the competition with both of their teams scoring a 61. However, Funk and his command group team walked away with the victory due to a low score on a challenge hole. The division's retention office placed a close third with a 62.

"I only wish Col. Sutherland could have been here to see this," Funk said.

Black Jack Takes Top Turkey Trophy

By Spc. Robert Yde
2BCT, 1CD Public Affairs

The air seemed to swirl with small hints of cinnamon, pumpkins, cranberries and fall spices as last-minute preparations were made for the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team's Thanksgiving meal at the Holcomb Memorial Dining Facility Nov. 23.

Soldiers and family members from Black Jack's six battalions came together for food, friendship and a chance to see their fellow Soldiers' talent in food service.

This tremendous talent and hard work would not go unnoticed as several distinguished guests arrived throughout the day to view and judge the dozens of displays inside the Holcomb DFAC.

The hard work paid off as the dining facility staff was presented with the division's award for having the best Thanksgiving displays.

"It made me feel wonderful to have all this come together so well," said Sgt. 1st Class Denise Worsley, dining facility manager. "We had started planning for this a month ago and we began working on the displays last week."

After hundreds made their way through the line to share a meal with fellow Soldiers and family, the 1st Cavalry Division's assistant commanding general – support, Brig. Gen. William Troy, arrived to present Worsley with the division's trophy commemorating her staff's achievement in food service.

The victory was the result of hours of hard work.

Almost 40 Soldiers worked through the night mak-



(Photo by Spc. Robert Yde, 2BCT, 1CD Public Affairs)

Brig. Gen. William Troy presents the 1st Cavalry Division's trophy for best Thanksgiving presentation to the Holcomb Memorial Dining Facility manager Sgt. 1st Class Denise Worsley and Staff Sgt. Barksdale Nov. 23. Hundreds of "Black Jack" troops celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday meal surrounded by dozens of displays, earning the brigade top honors from the division and III Corps for the presentation.

ing sure all final preparations were made for the annual event.

Worsley said that holidays are the only time of year when food service specialists can really show off their talents.

"This is a competition between 1st, 2nd and 3rd brigades to see who is the best," said Worsley. "To win awards like this gives the Soldiers a lot of motivation to do what they do."

Creative minds were put to work as a central theme was created to keep judging uni-

form throughout the day.

"The Spirit of Nature" was the theme in the dining facility, as dozens of creative displays were made in honor of the holiday and the event. Standing out among them were two huge sculptures of a bear and a Black Jack mascot 'Stallion,' made by Sgt. Brian Hicks and Spc. David Martinez from Headquarters Company, 15th Brigade Support Battalion.

"We were trying to stay with the theme, and we thought of 'Smokey the Bear'

and something to honor the Cav," said Hicks.

The sculptures were made from chicken wire, newspaper and salt dough. Hicks said the sculptures were then air-brushed with a food grade ink. The stallion sculpture was complete with fake eyelashes and a mane made from hair extensions as a final touch. Another eye-catching centerpiece was a giant salt dough cornucopia spilling out a har-

Turkey

From Page 12

vest of fruits.

Several of the displays on hand were made by teams of Soldiers and took many hours to complete.

"Teamwork was key on many projects," said Spc. Preston Stokes, a food service technician from 4th Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment. "An individual can spend up to five days on a project like the cornucopia, but in a team like the one I was in with Sgt. Hicks, we did it in about five hours."

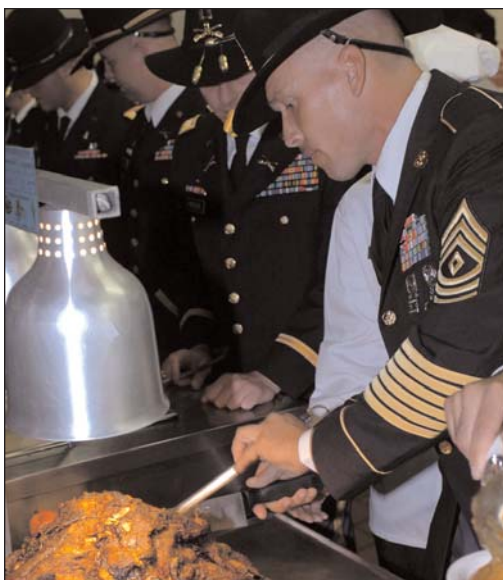
Hicks and Stokes received medals and coins to reward them for their hard work during the holiday event. Several other Soldiers were honored throughout the day for their hard work and dedication.

"All I needed to do was show these Soldiers a picture of what needed to be done," Worsley said. "They did it from the love of their skills."



(Photo by Spc. Robert Yde, 2nd BCT Public Affairs)

The 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade's commander, Col. Bryan Roberts, and the brigade's senior non-commissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. James Lee, slash into the Black Jack cake during the Thanksgiving meal at the Holcomb Memorial Dining Facility Nov. 23.



1st Sgt. Kim Levitre, 4th Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, slices up a Texas-sized steamship beef round roast for hungry Soldiers during the Thanksgiving meal Nov. 23 at the Holcomb Memorial Dining Facility.



Brig. Gen. William Troy and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Sanders pause to look at a life-size sculpture of a Cavalry mascot named "Stallion" during a walk-through of the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team's Holcomb Memorial Dining Facility Nov. 23.